

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association Special Meeting

August 1, 2023

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Sakelik at 7:05 p.m. There were 13 SONA members present at the onset of the meeting. This met the quorum requirement of a minimum of ten members to approve the SONA agenda. In addition, there were two guests from the community in attendance. SONA's online meeting announcement and agenda were posted to the City of West Linn's website and email reminders were sent to members.

Agenda:

Roberta Schwarz moved that the agenda be approved and Steve Rushton seconded the motion. No changes made and a motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Ed Schwarz provided a brief history for the proposed changes to the existing City Council Rules that regulate public testimony/comment during meetings, notice of City Council meetings, the posting of agendas, and various rules pertaining to the submission of written testimony. Eight areas of greatest concern were described in the draft resolution shown on screen during the meeting. Participants discussed each section of the resolution and a final draft was written at that time. The final approved resolution is **attached**.

A motion was made by Ed Schwarz and seconded by Roberta Schwarz to approve the SONA resolution as modified and written on August 1, 2023. This resolution will be presented to the Mayor and City Council.

There were 13 yea votes, 0 nay votes, and 0 abstaining.

President Richard Sakelik appointed Ed Schwarz to present SONA's approved resolution to the City Council at the August 7, 2023 meeting.

Community Comments:

Treasurer Frank Carini noted that the Movie in the Park outreach had been canceled due to illness impacting several of the volunteers. However, a SONA banner still needed to be made for the upcoming SONA Ice Cream Social in August. A motion was made by Lori Carini and seconded by Roberta Schwarz to purchase a SONA banner to be used this year and at future events with the total cost to SONA not to exceed \$40. The motion passed unanimously.

President Sakelik announced that the SONA Ice Cream Social would be held on Saturday, August 26th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and that an ice cream of their choice would be free to the first 150 participants. Ice Cream Express has been booked to supply the ice cream at this event.

Roberta Schwarz stated that the mowing of the White Oak Savanna had been completed by Gavin. She noted that he did an excellent job.

Next Meeting:

Richard Sakelik stated that the next Savanna Oaks NA meeting will be held on September 5, 2023 as a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Rich Sakelik, seeing no further business, adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by Lori Carini, SONA Secretary

RESOLUTION

Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association

August 1st, 2023

WHEREAS the members of the Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association (SONA) reviewed the West Linn City Council Agenda for the July 17, 2023, Special Meeting and Work Session and read the proposed Changes to Council Rules under item 9 (c) of the agenda; and

WHEREAS the members of SONA also reviewed the included Organizational Chart of the City of West Linn and found that the Citizens of West Linn are listed at the top of that chart above both the Mayor and City Council and the staff of this city; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and City Council candidates that have now become the Mayor and City Councilors all campaigned on transparency and citizen input being important to the proper functioning of the City of West Linn; and

WHEREAS the City Council Home Page on the City's Website has as its opening statement: "Council is always open to hearing from citizens on topics and issues of importance to them."; and

WHEREAS the previous full City Council met more often than the current City Council; and

WHEREAS the above-referenced proposed changes to Council Rules do not further transparency and citizen input but instead lessen them in the following areas:

- **Section C #3 Agenda** — Decreases from 10 days to only 6 days ahead of the City Council meetings for the staff "striving" to publish the agenda and packets for the next City Council Meeting and that items can be added after publishing the agenda, thus making it harder for citizens to know what will be heard at the City Council meetings and to get their testimony properly prepared.
- **Section C #19 General Public Comment** — Public comments will not be taken on specific agenda items. Consequently, all comments will be heard during General Comment time.
- **Section C #19 General Public Comment** — Decreases the number of minutes that members of the public can speak on an agenda item from 5 minutes down to 3 minutes thereby lessening the amount of public input.
- **Section C #21b Written Comments, Documents, and Testimony Forms** — Written comments submitted two business days before the meeting will no longer be placed on the agenda.
- **Section C #21b Written Comments, Documents, and Testimony Forms** — States that written testimony and documents must be submitted to the City Recorder by 4 pm two

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business days before the meeting. With the proposed 6-day instead of 10-day time frame for the publishing of the agenda discussed above, it means that the public will have only two days to submit a comment to be included in the agenda and packets. Most local cities do not have a deadline. Forest Grove's is 3 pm on the day of the meeting.

- **Section C #21d Written Comments, Documents, and Testimony Forms** — Written comments will no longer be read into the record.
- **Section C #22 Neighborhood Association Advisory Group Comments** — Decreases the number of minutes designated representatives of the Neighborhood Associations can speak from ten minutes down to five minutes thereby lessening the amount of Neighborhood Association input.
- **Section H #4 Minutes of Community Advisory Group Meetings** — Proposes that written minutes of citizen community advisory group meeting will be the official permanent record of CAGs and will be taken by the staff liaison and if not available, the Chair or their designated substitute. However, citizen community advisory groups shall also provide an audio recording of their meetings and that will only be retained for 1 year after approval of the written minutes thereby decreasing the historical record easily available to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, SAVANNA OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION RESOLVES THAT:

Section 1. SONA is opposed to the eight specific sections of the proposed changes to the Council Rules that are listed above, and;

Section 2. SONA respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council do not approve the eight sections described in detail above and to not decrease the transparency and citizen participation afforded to the citizens of West Linn. The citizens have worked hard for decades with previous City Councils to demonstrate a high value for community involvement, and;

Section 3. SONA respectfully requests that the Mayor and City Council hold an additional business meeting per month to shorten the time of the individual meetings. This would also allow adequate opportunities for citizens, NAs, and CAGs to speak on specific issues.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 1st DAY OF AUGUST, 2023
AYE 13 NO 0 ABSTAIN 0

Rich Sakelik

Rich Sakelik, President, Savanna Oaks Neighborhood Association

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PERSONNEL

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

